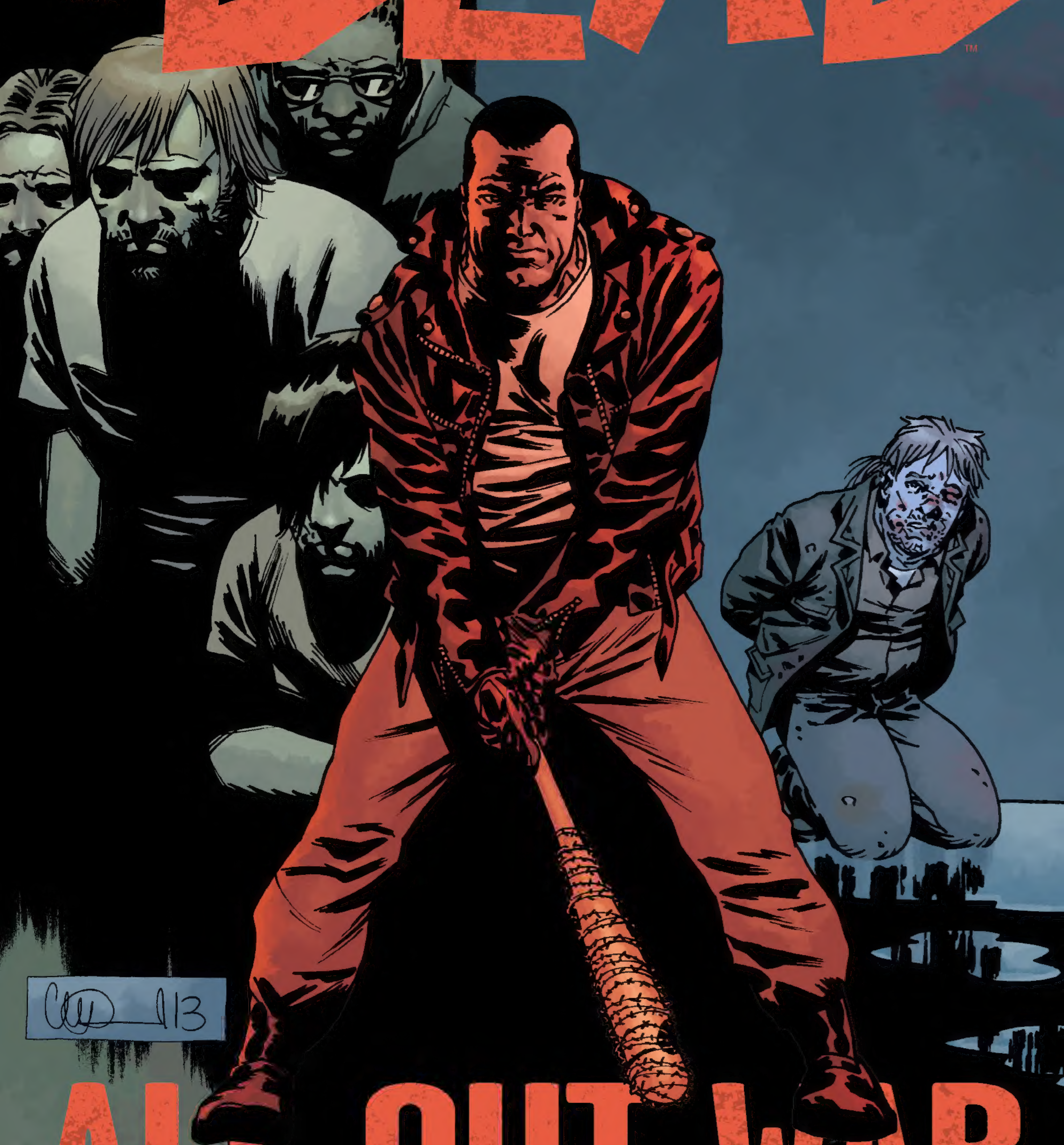


SKYBOUND

121

THE WALKING DEAD



113

ALL OUT WAR

CHAPTER 7 of 12

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • GAUDIANO • RATHBURN

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

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Cover Colors

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Editor

Previously:

The Saviors' assault on Alexandria has left the town destroyed. Only the arrival of Maggie and her Hilltop reinforcements was able to drive Negan away, but he still believes this battle just won him the war.

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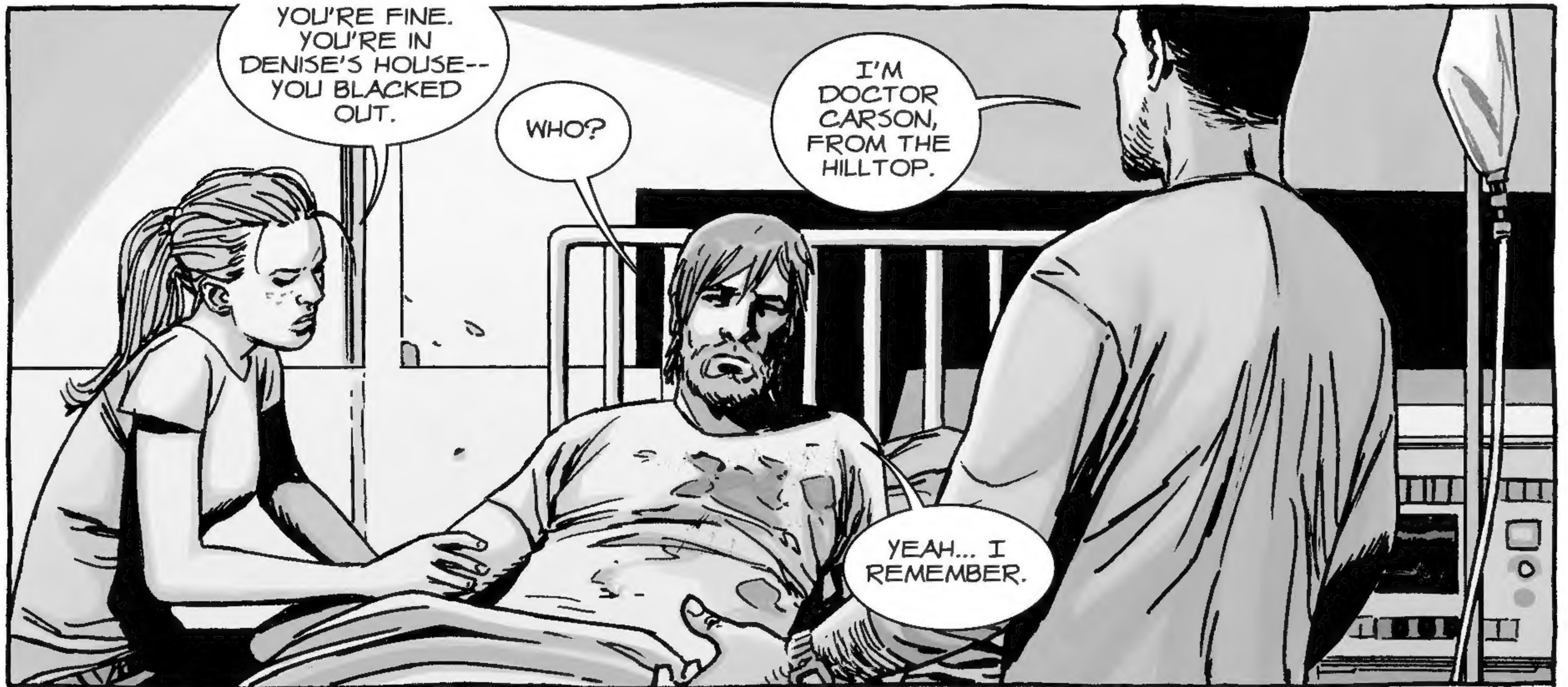








EXACTLY
WHAT THE
FUCKING **FUCK**
ARE YOU GUYS
DOING OUT
HERE?









WE STILL NEED
TO GET YOU UP
TO SPEED ON
WHAT'S GOING
ON. MAGGIE'S
PEOPLE...

HOW BAD
IS IT OUT
THERE?



NOT A TOTAL
LOSS, BUT IT'S
BAD.

EZEKIEL AND
HIS MEN, THEY'RE
PACKED TO
LEAVE. RICK... I
THINK THEY'RE
DONE.



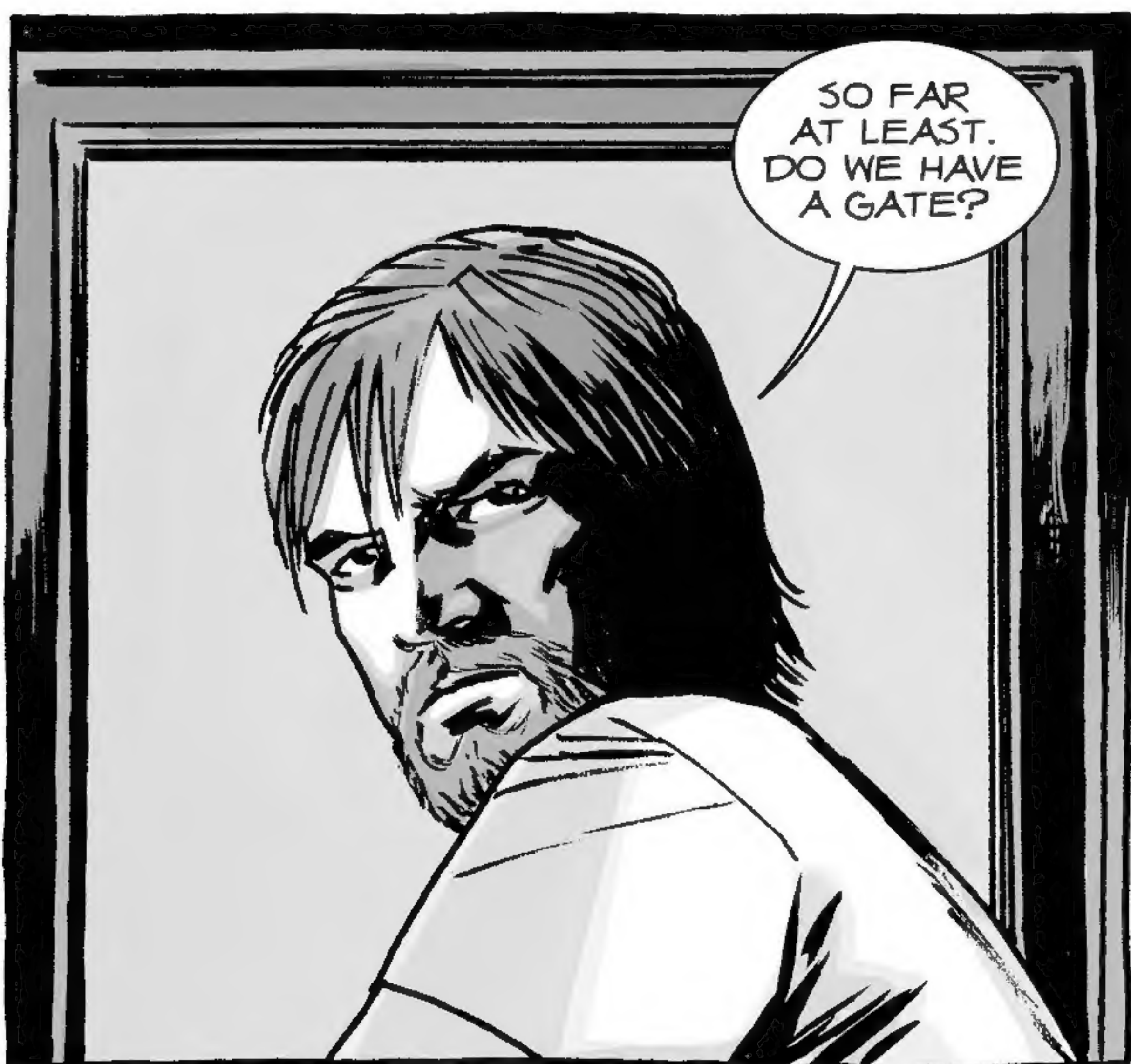
I CAN'T
DEAL WITH
THAT RIGHT
NOW.

WHERE'S
JESUS?



HE'S OUTSIDE, WITH NICHOLAS
AND A FEW OTHERS. THEY'RE
TAKING CARE OF THE ROAMERS
THAT HAVE BEEN DRAWN IN
BY THE EXPLOSIONS.

THEY SEEM
TO COME IN
WAVES, NEVER
ANYTHING TOO
OVERWHELMING.

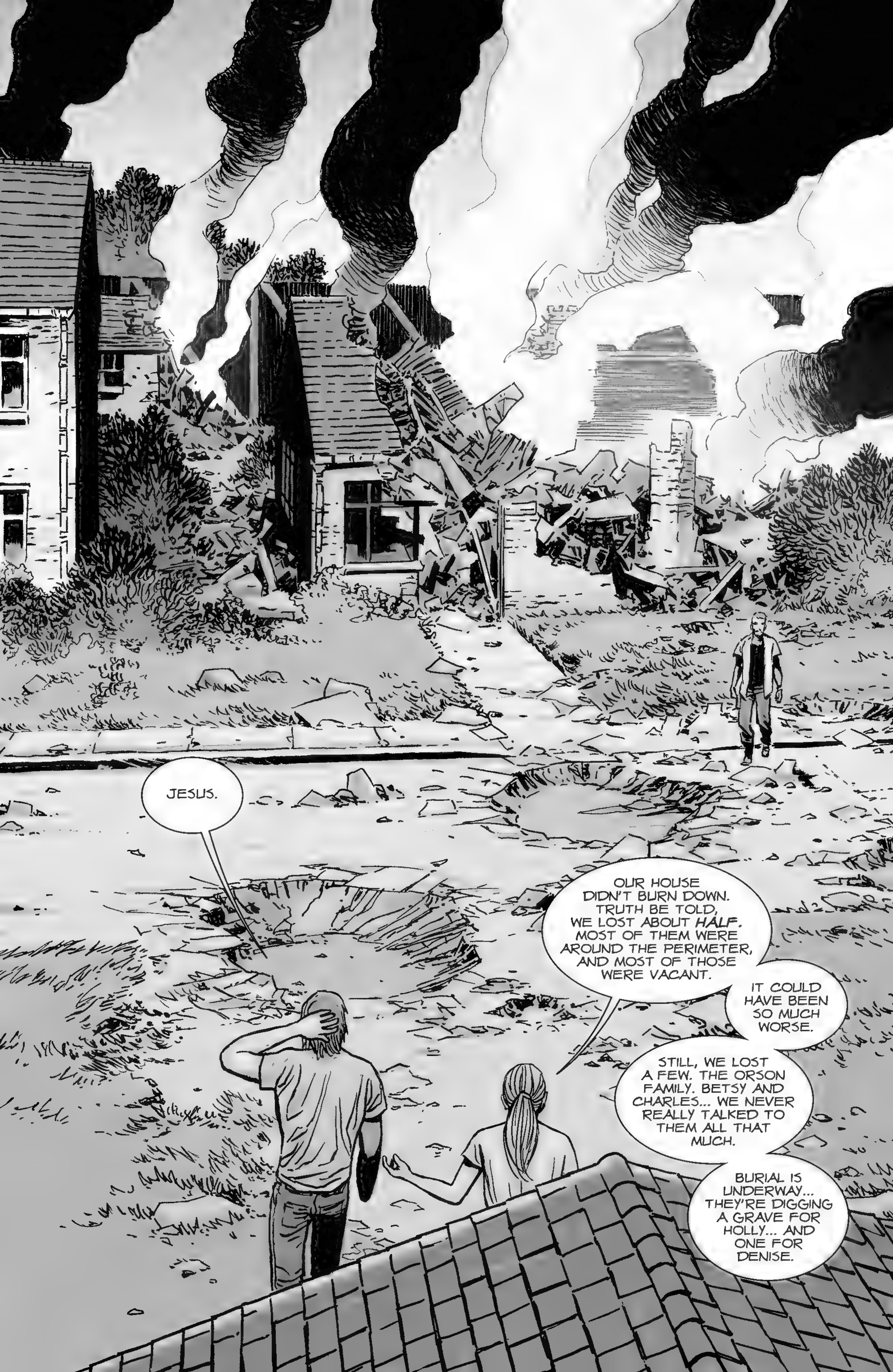


SO FAR
AT LEAST.
DO WE HAVE
A GATE?



WE DO... IT'S
JUST NOT
PROTECTING
ALL THAT
MUCH.

SEE FOR
YOURSELF...



JESUS.

OUR HOUSE
DIDN'T BURN DOWN.
TRUTH BE TOLD,
WE LOST ABOUT *HALF*.
MOST OF THEM WERE
AROUND THE PERIMETER,
AND MOST OF THOSE
WERE VACANT.

IT COULD
HAVE BEEN
SO MUCH
WORSE.

STILL, WE LOST
A FEW. THE ORSON
FAMILY. BETSY AND
CHARLES... WE NEVER
REALLY TALKED TO
THEM ALL THAT
MUCH.

BURIAL IS
UNDERWAY...
THEY'RE DIGGING
A GRAVE FOR
HOLLY... AND
ONE FOR
DENISE.



DEAR GOD...
I THOUGHT IT
WOULD NEVER
COME TO
THIS.

DID I
DO THIS?
WAS THIS MY
FAULT?

IT WAS,
AND IT'S STILL
JUSTIFIED, STILL
WORTH IT IF WE
TAKE THIS
FUCKER DOWN.
STOP THIS.
YOU NEED TO
FOCUS.

RICK?



I THOUGHT YOU
WERE OUT WITH
JESUS. WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
BACK?



HE'S BEEN CYCLING
PEOPLE OUT, KEEPING
US RESTED. I'M
GETTING READY
TO HEAD BACK
OUT.



NEED TO
TALK TO RICK
BEFORE I GO...
NOW THAT
YOU'RE UP.

OKAY,
THEN...
TALK
AWAY.



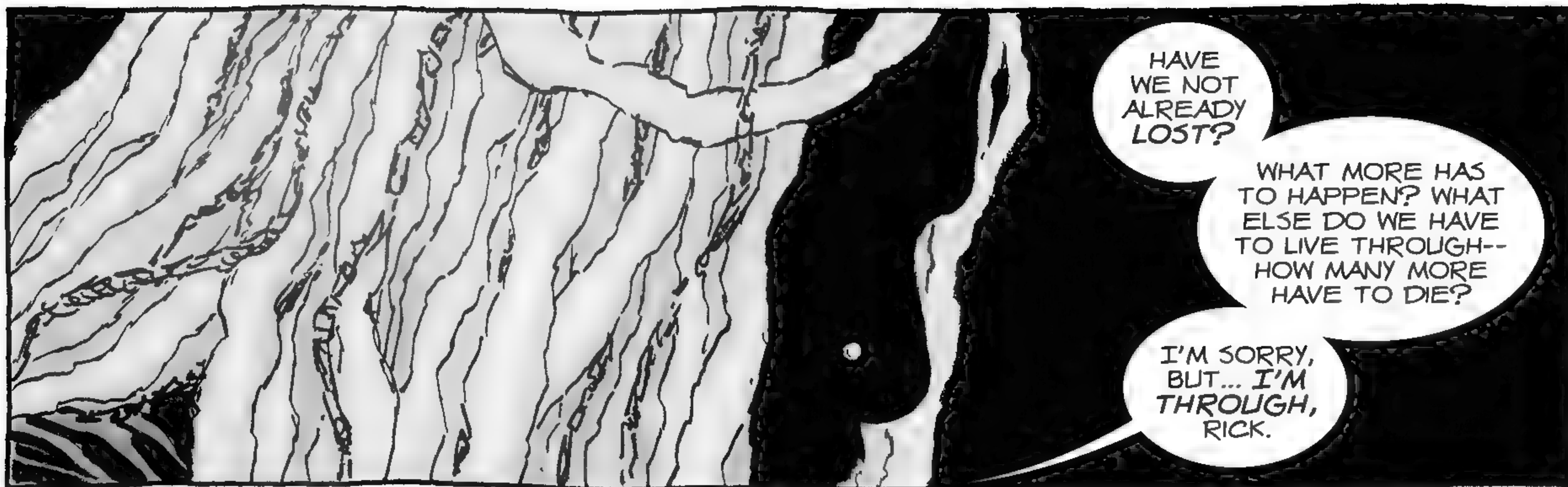
I GOTTA LEAVE. IT'S NOT
SAFE HERE... HALF MY
HOUSE BURNT DOWN. I
GOTTA THINK ABOUT
PAULA AND
MIKEY.

MAGGIE AND HER
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN
TALKING ABOUT LEAVING...
GOING BACK TO THE
HILLTOP. I THINK I'D
LIKE TO GO WITH
THEM.



I WOULDN'T
ASK ANYONE
TO STAY HERE...
AND I'M NOT.

WE'RE ALL
LEAVING.



HAVE
WE NOT
ALREADY
LOST?

WHAT MORE HAS
TO HAPPEN? WHAT
ELSE DO WE HAVE
TO LIVE THROUGH--
HOW MANY MORE
HAVE TO DIE?

I'M SORRY,
BUT... I'M
THROUGH,
RICK.



THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE
THE END. WE'RE IN BAD
SHAPE, THAT'S TRUE, BUT
WE CAN'T GIVE UP NOW...
THEY'RE HURTING JUST
AS BAD.

IF WE STOP
TO LICK OUR
WOUNDS... THEY
CAN TEND
TO THEIRS
AS WELL.

YOU'RE
PLANNING ON
LEAVING TODAY.
I'M JUST ASKING
YOU TO WAIT, LEAVE
WITH US... WE'RE
GOING TO THE HILLTOP.
YOU CAN GO WITH
US. SAFETY IN
NUMBERS.

AT THE
VERY LEAST
WE SHOULD
STICK
TOGETHER.



I'LL
CONSIDER
IT.



THAT'S
ALL I
ASK.



I'LL TRY
TO TALK
SOME SENSE
INTO HIM.

PLEASE
DO.

RICK!



WHAT IS IT,
JESUS?

EUGENE AND
HIS CREW...
THEY'RE GONE.
THE DOOR ON
THEIR PLACE WAS
OPEN--IT WAS
OVERRUN WITH
ROAMERS.

THERE
WAS NO SIGN
OF A FIGHT...
BUT I THINK
NEGAN GOT
THEM.



THERE'S
NOTHING WE
CAN DO
ABOUT THAT
NOW.

THEY'RE
TOO VALUABLE.
HE WON'T KILL
THEM. HE HAS
TO KNOW WHAT
THEY WERE
DOING.

THERE'S
JUST TOO
MUCH RIGHT
NOW...



BUT RICK...
DON'T
WE **NEED**
THEM?

WHAT DO
YOU SUGGEST
I DO? SEND A
RESCUE PARTY?
THAT'S
JUST NOT
PRACTICAL.



I
COULD--

GET
YOURSELF
KILLED? NO.
WE'LL THINK OF
SOMETHING.

WE WILL...
BUT WE CAN'T
DO A GODDAMN
THING RIGHT NOW.









YOU
FEELING
OKAY?

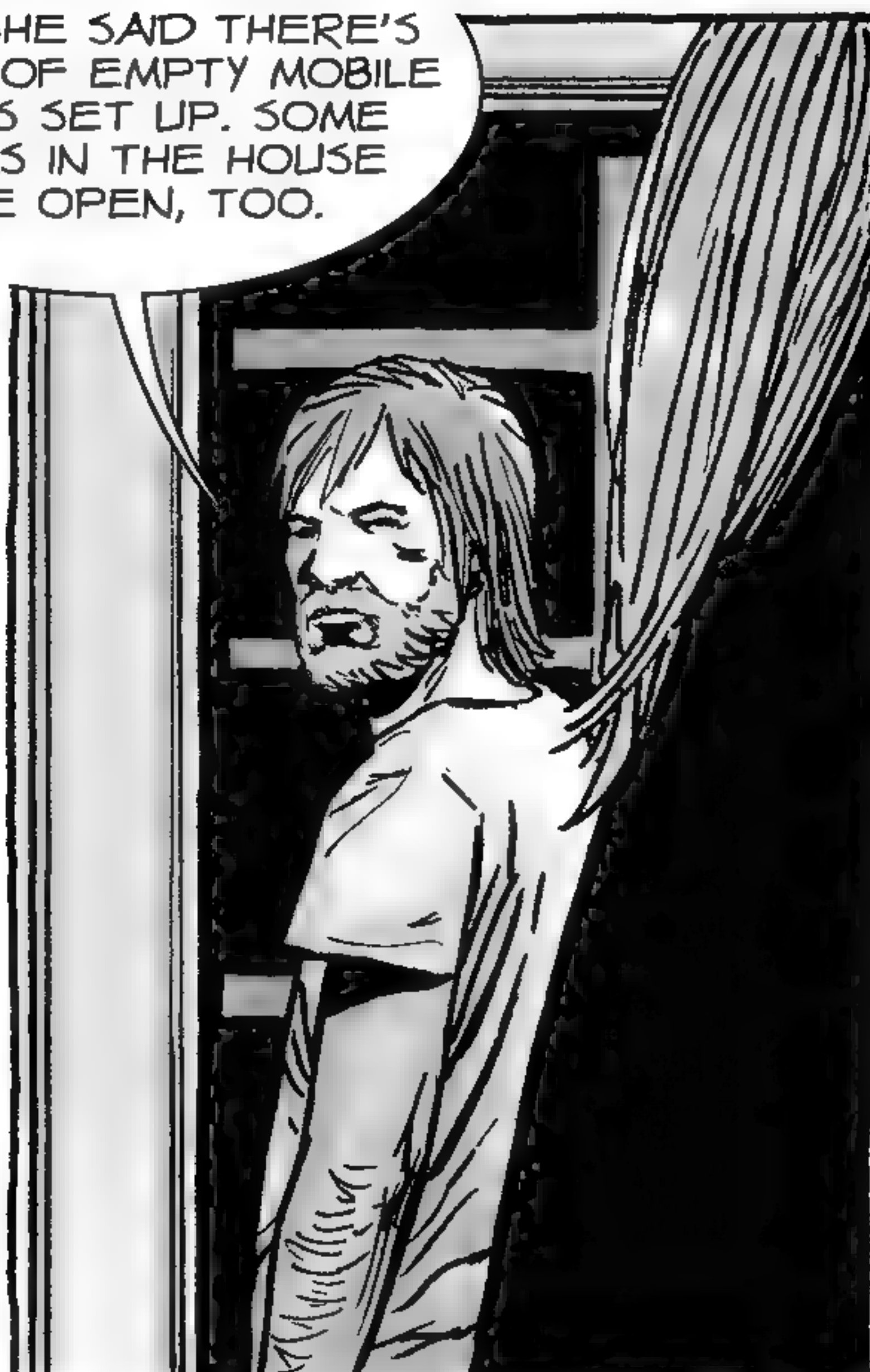
YEAH.
FINE.
YOU?

I DIDN'T GET
A CONCUSSION,
REMEMBER?

YOU
SOUND
LIKE
CARL.

MAGGIE'S FINE WITH ALL
OF US GOING BACK WITH
HER? ARE THEY GOING
TO HAVE ROOM FOR
ALL OF US?

YEAH, SHE SAID THERE'S
PLENTY OF EMPTY MOBILE
HOMES SET UP. SOME
ROOMS IN THE HOUSE
ARE OPEN, TOO.



WELL...
I THINK
THAT'S IT
FOR ME.

YOU SURE?
WE'VE GOT
PLENTY OF ROOM
LEFT IN THE
DUFFLE BAG.



NO.



NOTHING
ELSE.





HAVING
A GOOD
FUCKING
TIME?



JUST GOT WORD THAT YOUR
PEOPLE HIGHTAILED IT THE
FUCK OUT OF YOUR LITTLE
TOWN EARLY THIS MORNING.
I GUESS BLOWING IT ALL
TO FUCK MADE IT
A LITTLE LESS
QUANT.

WE'VE GOT YOUR MOST
RECENT BATCH OF
AMMO, WE KNOW YOU
CAN MAKE IT... AND
NOW WE KNOW ALL THE
FUCKING EQUIPMENT
WE NEED IS
MORE OR LESS
ABANDONED.

SO YOU'RE
GOING TO GET
BACK TO WORK
AND MAKE THAT
SHIT FOR US.
GOT IT?



NO.

I
WON'T.

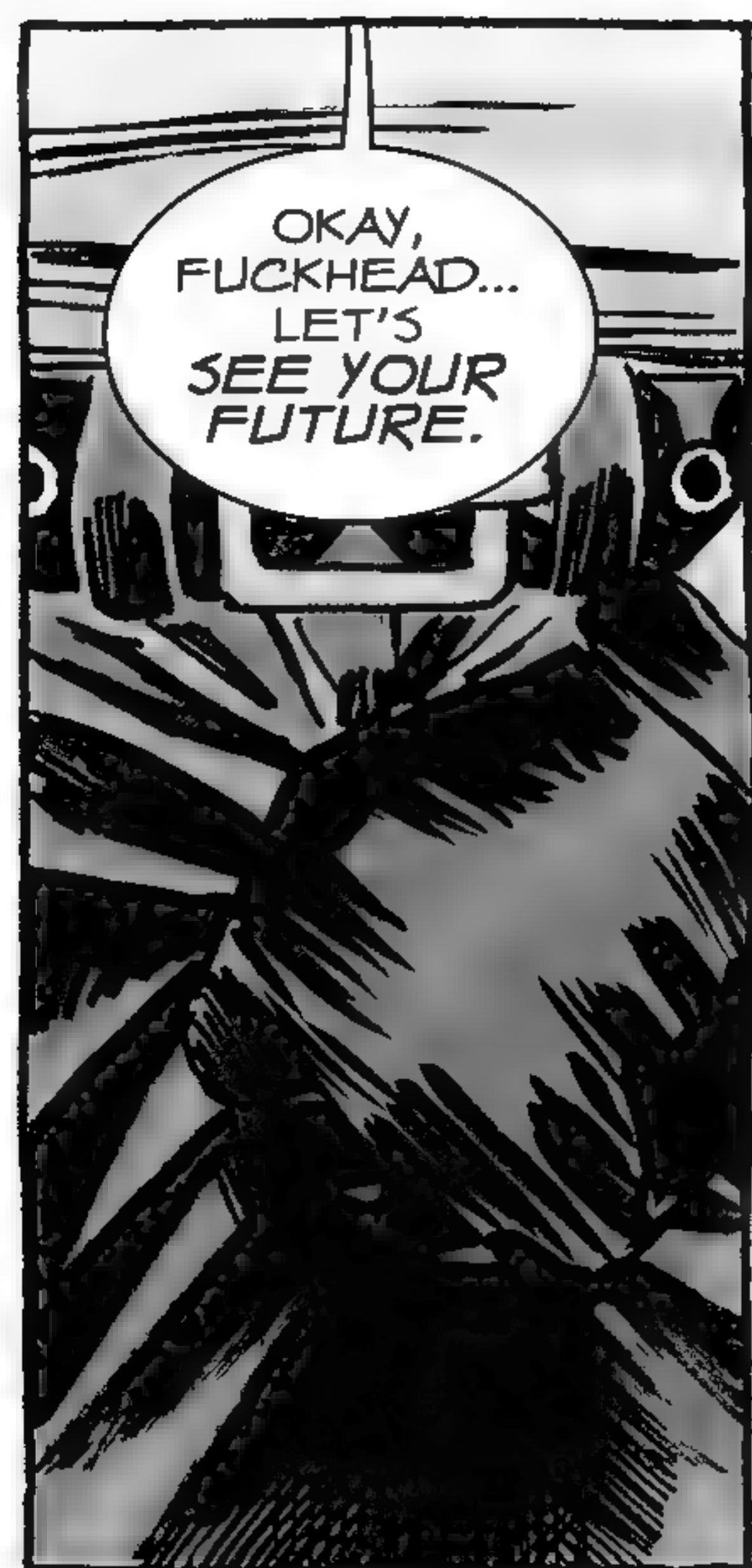


EXCUSE
ME WHILE I
GET OUT
MY CRYSTAL
BALLS.



OKAY...
THERE THEY
FUCKING
ARE.

NICE.



OKAY,
FUCKHEAD...
LET'S
SEE YOUR
FUTURE.



I SEE YOUR FRIENDS
AND I SEE ME...
KILLING THEM... ONE
BY ONE... RIGHT IN
FRONT OF YOU,
UNTIL YOU
SUBMIT.

I SEE YOU
SELF-RIGHTEOUSLY
BELIEVING MORE OF
YOUR PEOPLE WILL
DIE IF YOU GIVE IN...
JUSTIFYING THOSE
DEATHS.

BUT I
SEE A WHOLE
LOT MORE
OPTIONS IN
FRONT OF
ME.



I SEE... ME BURNING
YOUR FACE WITH AN
IRON... I'VE DONE
THAT BEFORE,
THAT MAKES
SENSE.



IF THAT **STILL**
DOESN'T FUCKING
DO IT... I'LL START
CUTTING PIECES OFF...
I SEE... I SEE ME
STARTING WITH THE
PIECE OF YOU THAT
IS MOST VALUED...
AND YET LOSING IT
WOULDN'T PREVENT
YOU FROM DOING
YOUR WORK.

THAT'S
RIGHT, YOU
FAT FUCK--
IT'S YOUR
SHRIVELED
UP LITTLE
DICK.



THIS HAS
BEEN A GLIMPSE
OF YOUR FUTURE...
AND ALSO A
GLIMPSE OF WHAT
A REAL MAN'S
BALLS CAN
DO.



THAT'S THE PATH THAT
LIES AHEAD FOR YOU. IT'S
SET IN STONE... THE
ONLY THING YOU CAN
DO TO STOP IT... IS
COOPERATE.

AND I **REALLY**
FUCKING HOPE YOU
DO, BECAUSE WHILE
LUCILLE IS **ALWAYS**
THIRSTY... I DON'T
WANT TO GET DIRTY,
I DON'T WANT TO
HAVE TO DEAL WITH
THE MESS...

AND I
REALLY
DON'T WANT
TO HAVE TO
CUT YOUR
DICK OFF.



BUT I DO
THINGS I DON'T
WANT TO DO...
ALL THE
FUCKING
TIME.



RICK IS WORKING
TOWARD SOMETHING...
HE'S **BUILDING** A
LIFE FOR ALL OF US,
INCLUDING **YOU** IF
YOU'D BACK THE
FUCK OFF.

THAT'S
BIG. THAT'S
SPECIAL.

AND I WON'T
DO **ANYTHING**
TO JEOPARDIZE
THAT... NO MATTER
HOW MANY
GENITALS YOU
SEVER.



DWIGHT,
CARSON... LET'S
LEAVE THIS POOR
BASTARD ALONE
WITH HIS THOUGHTS
AND HIS DICK...

...WHILE
HE STILL
HAS IT.



LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

R.I.P. Denise. Is Eugene next?

Now, the last thing I would do to Eugene is flash my scrotum in his face. That's the #1 reason you know Dwight is praying for Negan's downfall: he didn't relay the message on Eugene fighting dirty.

You're onto something.

dear robby, charlie, steffy, russy, sean-ee, cliffy, and davey

holly got me! you fuckers, I turned that last page of issue 119 and oh shit there it is, I really thought negan was handing her over safely, at most maybe a nice fat iron burn on her face, but that bastard surprised me and is just as ruthless as i hoped he would be! He is definitely my favorite villain and probably my favorite character in the book! That being said please don't ruin him by putting him in the tv series because the show is for dumb people and the comic is for smrt people. further more, please don't base a novel or video game on him either because those have been pooppy also thus far. I really try to enjoy all the crap that spews from the butthole of the walking dead franchise monster (I picture this as jaba the hut with kirkmans head) and you know what that means? It means your comic is so good I'll buy really crappy other things because it says walking dead on it, thanks guys!

kebbby kebbster
Sarnia On, Canada

Kebby, I don't know if you were trying to be a contrarian, but you basically don't want anything that everyone else wants. Tough shit. We make the decisions. But hey, I'm totally with you on the Holly thing!

Is he saying I look like Jabba the hutt?

I read your comics like the Bible and I watch your show like a teenage girl watches Gossip Girl. That being said: the Walkers are completely exposed to the elements at all times, which means that the rate in which their bodies should be decaying down to skeleton and some tissue would be within a year. Seasons have changed in the story and 10 years of my life have gone by and by now I have half expected the Walker's brains to be deteriorating into mush, ending their zombie lives. The only explanation I can think of is that the virus itself slows down the decaying process. Am I on the right track?

Jacob Taylor
Eugene, Oregon

You're on the right track. Whatever is making them walk around is also keeping them from rotting down to bones in a matter of weeks.

I started reading just before All Out War, soooo I'm

down for a good old-fashioned blood orgy. You two are good at what you do... obviously. I jumped into this story in the middle of an arc with no prior knowledge of the characters and I genuinely wanted to get the next issue and now this is one of my favorite books. But seriously, lets cut the fat!!!

Billy Badass

This is how I started reading most comics: jumping right in the middle of a storyline. My first issue of Uncanny X-Men was the last of Chris Claremont's 16-year run. And I couldn't have enjoyed it more!

That's the way it should be... so bravo, Billy. But just in case, the whole story is readily available in TPB form... so y'know... you could read up on the past.

Dear Robert Kirkman,

Issues numbers 118 and 119 have been very exciting, and heartbreaking. Not only did we lose Shiva, but Eric, as well. It's so sad for Aaron. One of the reasons why I read the series, is because it has characters that I can relate to. For me, being a gay male, it was amazing to see a loving gay couple be depicted in your stories. None of the characters were ever judgmental or upset that they were gay, but accepted them for what they were; survivors, just like them. Now, Aaron, has no one. It was nice to see him in mourning, and that Heath came to console him for his loss. Pretty tear jerking moment. But the question remains is will Aaron survive? We still have a long way to go before the end of the story.

Kill Aaron? You wouldn't do that, too... would you?

We'll just have to see... maybe everyone dies.

And now, we have the shocking ending to issue 119. It was upsetting to see that Holly was turned. Was hoping she would be okay, but what's done is done. And when Negan shouted for his group to attack, I gasped from sheer terror. What a cliffhanger! Good thing is we only have to wait for another two weeks for the outcome of this issue. Great to see Rosita again. Of course, who will survive this story arc? I'm biting my nails from the suspense of it all. And I did read that it will be a "different" series once this arc is done. So far, I'm enjoying the books immensely, though. And keep it up. WD is the comic book on the top of my reading list, and will be for a long time. Thank you and can't wait for the next issue.

Eddie

Thanks for reading. I promise we'll try to pack in only the coolest of stuffs into each issue as we move forward... I'm writing issue 127 right now... and it's going to be a very different book after All Out War... but I think you'll all like it. I promise.

I am currently collecting your fine comics (I started getting the new issues about 6 months ago and I am now on a quest to get all of them, including every different cover) and on issue 77 in the Letter Hacks, a man proposed to a woman. Do you have any idea if she said yes?

Joe

If you said yes, reader, give us a shout and catch us up!

I'm worried that because we never got an update on that, that the woman said no... but really... that's what you get for proposing in the back of The Walking Dead. It's not a very romantic comic. He should have waited around for Sex Criminals to get published and proposed in the back of that.

Your letters column is annoying me.

I love it, but man-o-man are there a lot of people that have gotten into the mood of telling you how to write the books and/or complaining about your money-hungry ways! To be fair, I'm only part of the way through this month's column, but I had to write on in and get all opinionated.

1) Make money. There is nothing wrong with a comic writer making money and offering products such as books, hats, shirts, and more. I hate the idea of someone doing something great and NOT getting money for it. Your products are great and the choice is always that of the consumer.

Exactly.

2) Write your stories. Seriously. I enjoy them and hope you write for a long time coming. I've written in before and offered my 2-bit "hypothesis" of what may or may not occur or lamenting the death of a character - in the spirit of fun and "geek"-festing. However, to demand a change or tell you what or how to write seems a bit much. Accusing you of being a money-grubbing rip-off artist is horrid. I would LOVE to see comic creators make more money - then we'd get even more great comics. (caveat: I do have a real hate for variant covers, but that's my problem)

And you don't have to buy those variant covers you hate. It's all very democratic. On the writing critique side of things... don't worry about it. I think people giving their opinion only proves how invested they are in a story and that's what you want. I'm thankfully always writing ahead of their suggestions, so even if I wanted to change course, it'd be too late... so it really doesn't influence me all that much at all.

Pacing in comics has changed drastically over the years and as an older fan, I sometimes lament the fact that the stories are told on "trade-paperback-time." That said, I never would say that you are ripping anyone off! The stories are great - and maybe the pacing is what keeps me desperate for the next issue even before I put the current one down.

Anyhow - I just had to send this rant along after the first few letters I've read. You've often had me wondering where things were going, and even questioning whether I was going to continue reading, but in every case you've come through and engaged me again. So, you have a lot of credibility as far as I'm concerned and will continue to have creditability as long as you remain your own voice.

Regards,

Frank Bergdoll
Calgary, Alberta

This was the angriest letter in support of us. That's a tough tone to pull off. Thanks, Frank!

Yeah, nice job!

Robert and Sean (mostly Robert)

YOU LIED. YOU ARE A LYING LIAR. YOU SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MORE HARM TO ANIMALS IN TWD! Then you killed poor Shiva... AND SHIVA WAS COOL! If you don't remember saying that check the letter hacks of the issues after Ben dissected that cat...

What is it with you folks going through old Letter Hacks and bringing them back up? Letter Hacks are not in continuity! Except for the one where Robert raves about Blockbuster's DVDs by mail/return in store service. NOW he's a Netflix guy. What's up with that, turncoat?

Blockbuster doesn't do streaming! I never used Netflix DVD mailing service! Boo! I'll never plug another thing in this letters column again. No lie... you can take that promise to the bank!

Do you guys have a Netflix account? House of Cards and Orange is the New Black are both excellent! You should give them a shot.

I have a question however... why did you kill off Shiva? Was it because you were sick of complaints in letter hacks? Were you just sick of Ezekiel having a tiger?

Second, why u no tell us truth?

Was killing Shiva Sean's idea? I certainly hope not.

My Twitter avatar is a tiger, and that was looooong before Shiva made the scene. You can't pin this shit on me!

It seemed like a good idea at the time. It's going to lead to a lot of cool moments with Ezekiel. You'll see.

And in issue #118 WHERE DID CARL'S HUGE MUSCLES COME FROM?!

He's been working out!

Anyway, nice comic I guess, apart from killing Shiva. R.I.P. Shiva. You will always be remembered.

Ben Linford

Thanks for writing, Ben!

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

Walking Dead is the best comic ever! I am an avid Star Wars Dark Horse comics fan, but I look forward to the Walking Dead each month with the anticipation of a 5 year old Christmas morning! However, I must say I am disappointed the past several issues with Negan. You made him such a badass, and now he seems like a wimp.

After crushing Glenn's skull, ironing that guys face, beating Rick into oblivion a few good times, and gutting Spencer, he seems lame now. He doesn't even swear as much. And most of the time, he seems confused. He seemed invincible at first, and now he seems vulnerable. Darth Vader NEVER appeared to be weak in any comic book issue. Neither did the Governor. The Governor was flawed, but weak? Never.

Comic book Darth Vader sounds reaaaaaaaal boring. Vader couldn't even kill his own kid in the movies. What a punk!

There are many sides to Negan, you haven't seen them all yet. There were many scenes in the movies where Darth Vader was weak as hell.

You built this guy up to be such a destroyer, now you are tearing him down like a stack of falling cards. I am not longer interested in seeing him in a great battle, because

you have put too much of a human element in him. Part of the fun, was thinking he was this big, huge, inhumane animal. Now he's just another character that needs to be killed off...

Christopher Curkendall

WE'LL see... WE'LL SEE...

Hello TWD team!

I just got done reading #119 and saw the letter hack from the 2 page splash hater. Fuck him, that shit is awesome. A comic is not just about the storyline, that's what books are for. It's also about the visual aspect. Keep it rockin Charlie!

Splash advocate
Chicago

Charlie IS rocking. Not only is he finishing up #126 right now, he's also a drummer! That is the definition of ROCK.

Wow... nice... comment... Sean. You're really... on fire this issue.

Charlie is awesome, though. Especially teamed up with Stefano. They're almost as awesome as two-page spreads.

Kirkman,

First, I wanted to say, "Thanks!" "For what?," you say. For probably getting me fired one day. I'm a fan of the show, but the comics have really captured my imagination. I find myself daydreaming about the craziest walking dead world stuff. About how to fortify chain link fence, about building a fortresses out of old cars (feel free to use that one), about new ways to use herds of zombies as WMDs. Let me stop here for a minute and write a disclaimer: I am not one of your usual fans, meaning a mental midget that believes a zombie apocalypse is actually possible, that's why I said it captured my imagination.

Why are you guys so mean? "Mental midget?" and earlier one of you said the show is for "dumb people." We're all in this together, people. If you like The Walking Dead... it's not like you're cooler than another person who also likes The Walking Dead. You're the same in that respect.

Anyway, I find myself daydreaming when I'm doing something boring like reviewing budgets or writing reports. You are single handedly responsible for reducing my productivity at work. I know that sounds strange coming from a fan. Like I said before, I'm not the average fan, meaning I'm not on disability (for "mental health problems") living in my mom's basement.

Seriously, dude?

Anyway just wanted you to know I love the comic and you are probably single handedly responsibly for my eventual dependence on unemployment.

Steven L. from South Carolina

I have the opposite problem. All day I have to read scripts and talk to artists. So what do I get the daydream about? Fucking budgets and TPS reports? I dunno, man. I gotta figure out ways to ruin my productivity SOMEHOW...

As long as you're nicer about it than Steven L. is, Sean... you'll be fine.

Dear TWD Team:

Please, Heath must die.

All Out War is going to knock off some characters. I get it. Please kill Heath. What value has his character brought to the story? None that I have seen. I mean, I see Heath and my first thought is, "Who is that lady?" Then I realize it's Heath. And . . . I am like "Really. Dude looks like a lady." So disappointing. His main role in issue #119 is giving a hug? Come on. After all, this is "All Out War." I think it is the first comic book figure I feel sorry for. Do him a favor. Kill him off in a glorious fashion. Least he deserves.

Holly brought more to the story. She was well drawn. Nice curves to her. And, now dead. Ugh.

Thomas Gonzalez
Parker, Colorado

Oh, you wanted Heath to die? Would you settle for a maiming?

Heath is awesome. You're going to be sad when he's gone...

Robert,

As you know, I've been reading a long time. And now I've been collecting for nearly 100 issues. Characters have come and gone, for sure: Dale, Glenn, Abraham, Lori. A full year of All Out War is nearly halfway through, huh? I just gotta say that as good a read as TWD still is, I agree with Javier Legnoverde from Melbourne who wrote in Letter Hacks in #119 that "each issue is way too short and one month between issues is too long to wait". A base analogy, to be sure, but accurate.

So, Holly is a biter now, huh? I know because she bit Denise. Denise is a fine character, actually; be a shame to see her go. Even more B-level characters I'd like to see more of, from this issue: Rosita, Nicolas, and I guess Gregory...he's the Two-Face-looking second to Negan, right?

More Rosita and Nicholas in your future, for sure. And it's Dwight, not Gregory. I can't tell if you're doing this on purpose.

I don't think he is. That's what makes him awesome.

Hopefully after AOW we'll have some new characters, too. New characters, new locales....there's really not much New you can do with the Biters/ Roamers is there? I was thinking though: Maybe the Biters can learn to use guns!? They are pretty vicious in general, and may even retain Some of their former human knowledge. Funny, all the letters I've sent you guys, I don't think I've even mentioned the term Letter Hacks before. And, finally: Better than All-New X-Factor #1! Better than Black Widow #1! THIS is The Walking Dead!

Cheers,

Andrew J. Shaw

Now that's a cover blurb we can really run with.

Get on that, Sean.

Next issue... Eugene plays by prison rules, and one side figures out new ways to fight dirty.

-Sean Mackiewicz

It's going to be awesome! See you in a couple weeks!

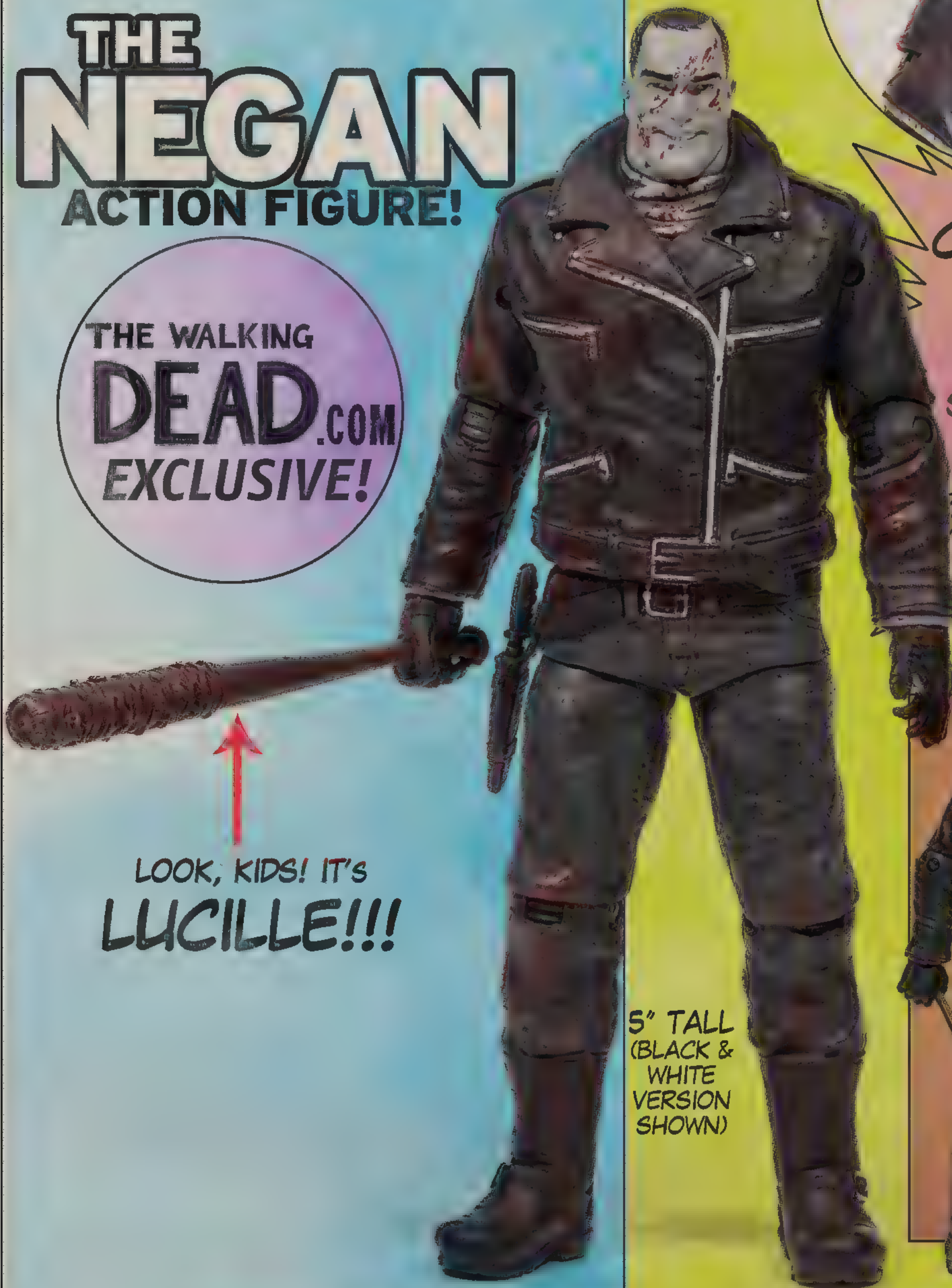
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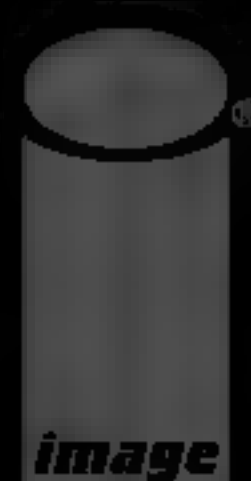
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